

an applicator [head] removably mounted to the massage head, said applicator having a concave shaped cavity formed in it, and a connection tube attached to said applicator head in operative communication with the cavity;

a vacuum line connected between the connection tube of the applicator [head] and the vacuum pump; and

a control system mounted to the housing which is selectively operated to provide suction and vibration to the body through the applicator head.

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, as being indefinite.

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by Holt and/or La Mere.

Claims 2-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over various combinations of Holt in view of Howerin, Marshall and Robinson.

Claims 1, 5, 9 and 15 are amended. Claims 8, 10-14 are cancelled.

The claims, as amended are believed to correct the formal deficiencies noted by the Examiner, and to be distinguishable over the art of record, and to be unobvious from that art, where that art is considered singularly or in combination.

Applicant's invention is a simple to install suction device which allows a therapeutic massage device to be converted into both a massage device and a suction device. That conversion is accomplished through a simplified suction head, which includes a connection tube operatively connected to a cavity formed in the applicator head. A suction line is carried by the cable which conventionally is connected between a drive motor and a massage head. This simplified device offers benefits which are

accomplished only with the complex structures of the prior art. In particular, Holt, while providing somewhat of a similar result of Applicant's invention, does so with a different structure in a different manner. In particular, Holt is shows a device in which "the plate 28 will prevent this material from being drawn into the air passage, the said material being collected within the cup shape holder 20. The applicator 25 and shell 21 may thereafter be removed and the device thoroughly cleaned." (Holt, page 2, lines 63-69.) It is respectfully suggested that the Holt device was not intended and does not disclose Applicant's apparatus in which the suction and whatever is collected during suction is transferred from the applicator head to the housing of the device.

Claimed?

Marshall discloses a helmet which is worn over the head of a person. It is respectfully suggested that a helmet does not provided body massage as disclosed in Applicant's specification.

La Mere shows a massage vibrator which is connected to a conventional household vacuum cleaner. A massage provided by La Mere in no way emulates the massage obtainable with Applicant's apparatus.

Howerin, disclosed an accessory for a dry vacuum cleaner which allows collection of water with the vacuum cleaner. It is to say, Howerin enables a conventional vacuum cleaner which is not designed to pick up water and other liquids to be used for that purpose without damaging it or impairing its effectiveness as a dry vacuum cleaner. (See Howerin Col. 1, lines 12-15.) It is respectfully suggested that Howerin is not indicative or suggestive of Applicant's invention.

Robinson, is a roller device which implies suction to draw the skin internally of the applicator head so that the power operated rollers can "knead" the skin. Applicant



accomplishes a similar action, but does so with a structure which eliminates rollers. As such, Robinson, alone or in combination, does not show or describe Applicant's unique structural combination as now claimed.

Frenkel has a rotor mounted in an applicator handle. The intention of the suction is to hold the skin in place while the rotor operates on the skin. Again, it teaches away from Applicant's device in that Applicant has eliminated the need for rotors or rollers of any kind.

In view of the structural differences between the art of record and the claims as amended, re-examination of the case, allowance of the claims, passage of the case to issue are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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